

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are pending.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-5 are allowed.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreyer (US 3,085,083) in view of Morgan et al (US 4,626,587).

This rejection should be withdrawn because Schreyer and Morgan do not disclose or render obvious the present invention, either alone or in combination.

As the Examiner stated, Schreyer does not disclose that the volatile matter index of the fluoropolymer is not higher than 15, as required by the present claims.

However, the Examiner rejected claim 7 because Morgan et al teaches a process for subjecting a melt processible copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene through a twin screw extruder to obtain a copolymer having a backbone volatile index less than 10.

However, the fluoro-polymerised material of claim 7 cannot be obtained by the process taught by Morgan et al, as demonstrated by the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 executed by Mr. Yoshiyuki Takase, one of the inventors of the present invention, and submitted herewith.

In the Declaration, Reference Example 2 illustrates the number of unstable terminal groups when a fluoropolymer of which polymer terminal groups are $-CF_2H$ is subjected through an extruder.

Table 3 at page 3 of the Declaration shows that the process taught by Morgan et al reduced the volatile matter index, which result matches the disclosure of Morgan et al.

However, the fluoropolymer obtained had a larger number of unstable terminal groups as compared to Sample A.

Therefore, the combination of Schreyer and Morgan et al does not produce a fluoro-polymerized material which has a volatile matter index of not higher than 15 and which comprises a fluoropolymer having not more than 20 unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10^6 carbon atoms.

Accordingly, the claimed fluoro-polymerized material is not obvious and is patentable over Schreyer and Morgan et al, either alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection based on Schreyer in view of Morgan et al are respectfully requested.

Allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-10 is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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